



Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528)

A greyhound, c.1500–1

Brush and ink, the outlines indented with a stylus

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Dürer made many preparatory drawings for engravings, etchings, and woodcuts, and this preparatory drawing for the engraving *The Vision of St Eustace*, 1501, is a typical example of the working drawings Dürer produced.

The fine lines have been achieved by using a brush to apply ink to gain tapering effects so that the dog's wiry yet muscular form can be emphasized. The reverse of the sheet has been rubbed with black chalk or charcoal and the outlines of the drawing traced around with a stylus so that a copy would appear on another sheet in preparation for an engraving.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Albrecht Dürer, a German artist who was influenced by the Italian masters, became known as a leader of the Northern Renaissance. The scope and variety of his work was unrivalled in Northern Europe (about 1700 pieces survive today).

He was the son of a goldsmith and was apprenticed to his father in his early life. He later travelled to Venice and was inspired by the Venetian artists, focussing his artwork on painting rather than his earlier more characteristic etching.

STUDENT FOCUS QUESTIONS

- How do the lines used by Dürer in this drawing relate to the media used by the artist in other work?
- How does this work compare to the Leonardo da Vinci work? What are the similarities or differences?
- What does the surety of line indicate about the artist?

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

<http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/durer/>
<http://www.artchive.com/artchive/D/durer.html>
<http://www.boglewood.com/cornaro/xdurer.html>